



Alaska Opinion Survey Results

Resident Opinion on Hunting and Game Management

Survey conducted January 9-12, 2026 by:

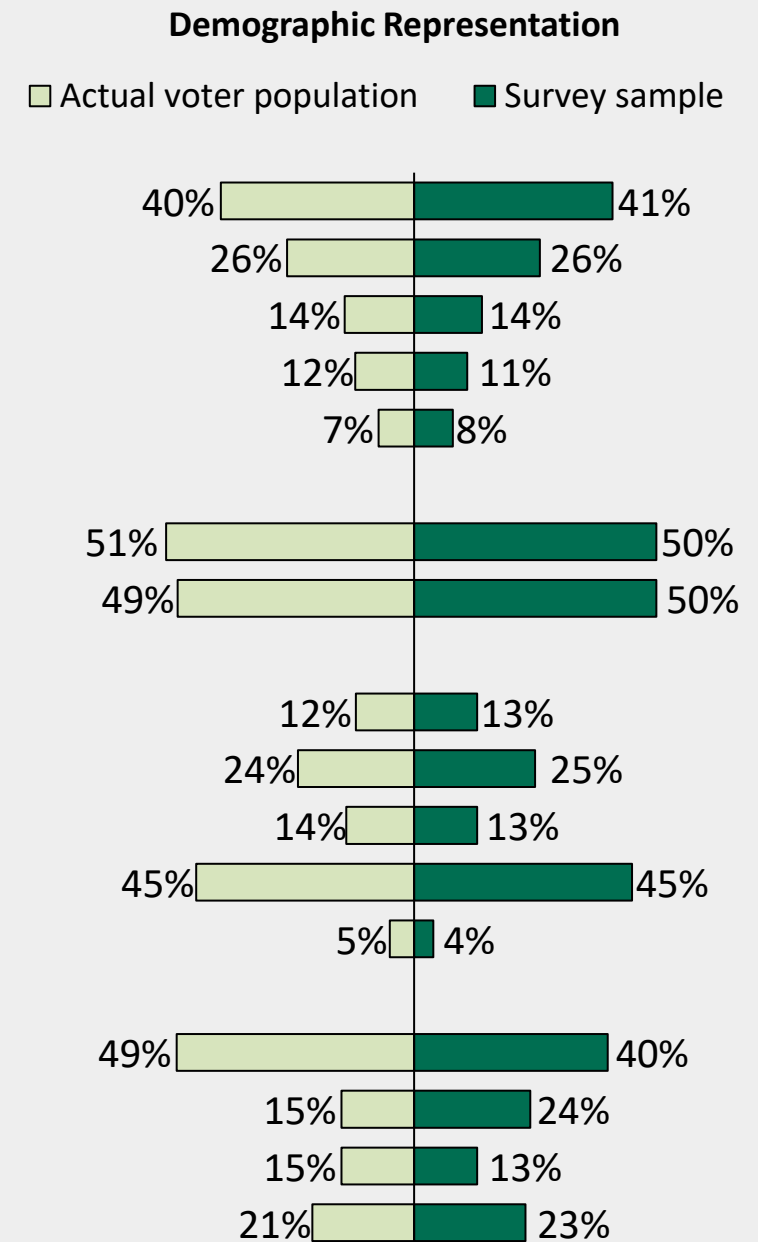
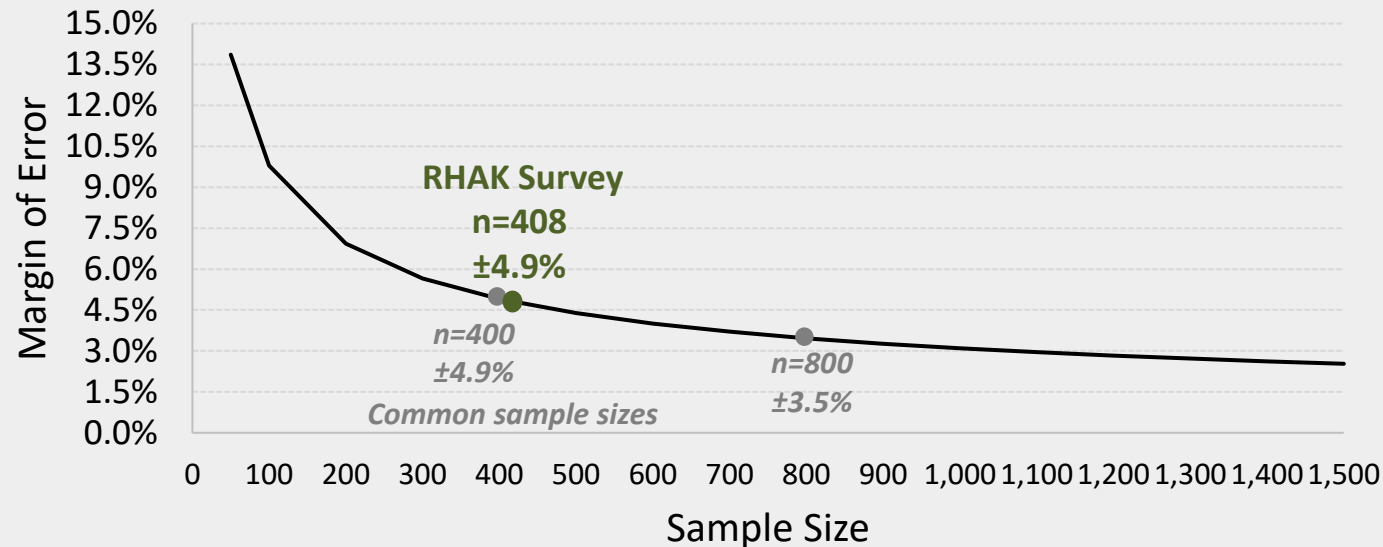


Methodology

- Field Dates: January 9-12, 2026
- Sample:
 - N=408, Statewide Alaska registered voters
 - Interview quotas by location, age and gender
- Interview Method:
 - Mixed-mode survey
 - 50% live interviewer, 50% text-to-web
- Margin of Error:
 - $\pm 4.9\%$ at 95% confidence level for total sample

Polling Fundamentals

- Polling gathers opinions from a small group, allowing researchers to make inferences about the views of a larger population.
- Accurate polling is achieved through probability sampling, sufficient sample size, and careful fielding and weighting to ensure the sample closely represents the target population. Well-designed survey questions are also essential.
- The margin of error indicates the range in which the actual population value is expected to fall.



Geographic Representation



Key Findings

Connection to hunting and wild game is widespread

- 65% say hunting and wild game are important to their household
- 63% of households have someone with a hunting license or PID
- 60% of households received wild game from a friend or family member
- A majority of households across all key demographic subgroups have a hunting license or received wild game from friends or family

Resident priority dominates views on hunting policy and access

- 95% say residents should have priority over nonresidents for hunting opportunities
- 90% say nonresident hunting opportunities should be reduced first if harvest limits need to be reduced
- 88% say residents should receive nearly all or most permits in lottery drawing hunts
- 64% call it unacceptable that nonresidents can avoid the draw system in some hunts
- 55% believe resident hunters have a greater overall impact on Alaska's economy than nonresident hunters

Strong support for raising nonresident license and tag fees

- 85% support setting Alaska's nonresident big game tag fees more in line with other western states
- 76% support increasing nonresident license and tag fees to maintain similar revenue if stronger resident hunting priority reduces revenue from nonresident hunters

Key Findings, cont.

Alaska Board of Game ratings are mixed and Alaskans want guide representation kept below half

- Alaskans provide mixed ratings on the job the Board of Game is doing managing Alaska's wildlife for residents, with 43% rating the Board excellent or good, 41% fair or poor, and 16% unsure
- A large majority (71%) would limit guide representation on the Board of Game to no more than 3 of the 7 Board seats

Resident opportunity and long-term game availability are the clear priorities Alaskans want the Board of Game to consider

- 84% prioritize maximizing resident hunting opportunity over maximizing license and tag revenue
- 94% say resident hunting opportunity should be a major or moderate consideration
- 93% say the long-term game availability should be a major or moderate consideration
- 65% say economic activity from hunting activities should be a major or moderate consideration
- 58% say impacts on the Alaska guide industry should be a major or moderate consideration
- 41% say nonresident opportunity should be a major or moderate consideration

Hunting Connection & Familiarity

Alaska Opinion Survey Results

Hunting and Wild Game Matter to Alaska Households

How important is hunting and wild game to you and your household overall, whether for food, recreation, or tradition?



Hunting and wild game are considered important in about two-thirds of Alaska households. For a plurality (41%) it is “very important.” Only around a third (35%) say it is less important or that no one in the household hunts or uses wild game.

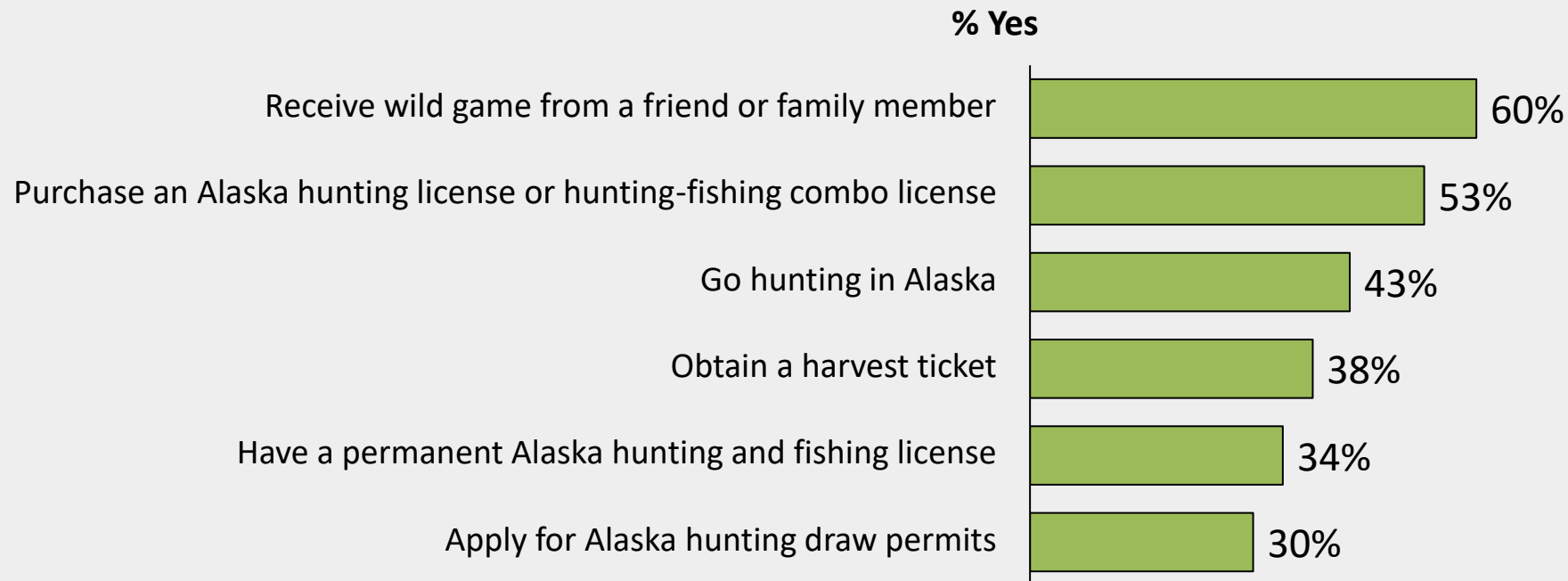
Location	Total important	Total Not important
Anchorage	52%	48%
Southcentral	82%	18%
Interior	60%	40%
Southeast	69%	31%
Rural	81%	19%
Gender		
Male	67%	33%
Female	63%	37%

Age	Total important	Total Not important
<45 yrs old	65%	35%
45-64 yrs old	70%	30%
65+ yrs old	57%	43%
Party		
Democrat	45%	55%
Republican	76%	24%
Non-Partisan	63%	37%
Undeclared	66%	34%

Hunting Touches Most Alaska Households































During the previous year, did you or anyone in your household...

A large share of Alaskans report some household connection to hunting, whether through licenses and permits, time in the field, or receiving wild game from friends and family.



Widespread Involvement in Hunting Activities

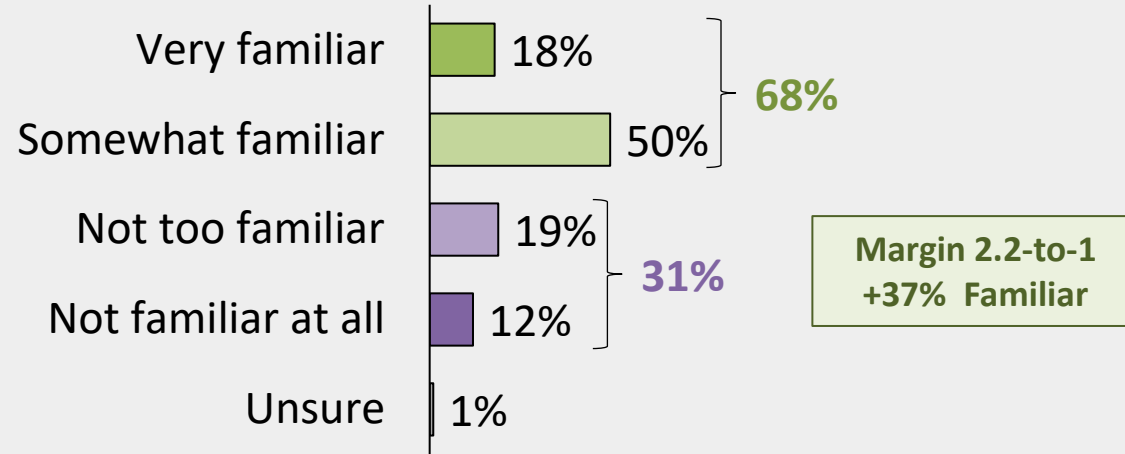
During the previous year, did you or anyone in your household...

		% Yes	
		Hunting license or PID in household	Receive wild game from a friend or family member
Overall		 63%	 60%
Location	Anchorage	 47%	 53%
	Southcentral	 82%	 58%
	Interior	 63%	 65%
	Southeast	 75%	 80%
	Rural	 69%	 68%
Gender	Male	 66%	 60%
	Female	 60%	 60%
Age	<45 yrs old	 59%	 61%
	45-64 yrs old	 59%	 66%
	65+ yrs old	 77%	 49%
Party	Democrat	 42%	 61%
	Republican	 70%	 60%
	Non-Partisan	 70%	 63%
	Undeclared	 63%	 59%

Hunting touches a large share of households across key demographics. A majority of households across all key groups have a hunting license or received wild game from friends or family.

Most Are Familiar with Game Management, but Only “Somewhat” So

How familiar are you with hunting related topics in Alaska, including wildlife management and regulations?



Most Alaskans describe themselves as familiar with game management, but that familiarity is typically “somewhat” rather than “very.” Familiarity rises among hunting households and draw permit applicants, while groups with less connection to hunting report lower familiarity.

Location	Very familiar	Total Familiar	Total Not familiar
Anchorage	12%	64%	36%
Southcentral	23%	77%	21%
Interior	16%	60%	39%
Southeast	28%	70%	30%
Rural	23%	75%	25%
Gender			
Male	24%	78%	22%
Female	12%	58%	40%

Age	Very familiar	Total Familiar	Total Not familiar
<45 yrs old	15%	65%	34%
45-64 yrs old	19%	69%	30%
65+ yrs old	23%	74%	24%
Party			
Democrat	10%	53%	47%
Republican	18%	73%	26%
Non-Partisan	21%	80%	20%
Undeclared	19%	67%	31%

Hunting participation	Very familiar	Total Familiar	Total Not familiar
Hunting household	25%	80%	20%
Draw permit applicant	35%	88%	12%
Harvest ticket holder	31%	86%	14%
Receive wild game	23%	73%	26%
Non-hunting household	5%	45%	52%

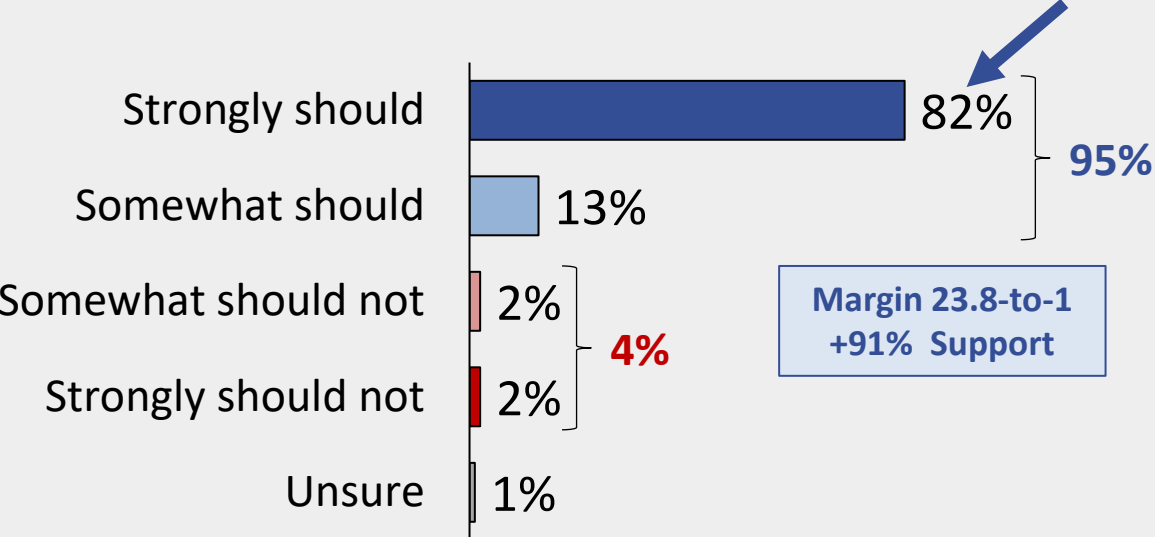
Hunting household includes 67% of Alaskans who personally, or whose household member, engaged in at least one of the following activities in the past year: purchased an Alaska hunting license, held a permanent Alaska hunting license, obtained a harvest ticket, applied for an Alaska hunting draw permit, or hunted in Alaska. Non-hunting household (33%) have not themselves, nor had a household member engage in any of these activities in the past year.

Hunting Opportunity & Allocation

Alaska Opinion Survey Results

Overwhelming Support for Resident Hunting Priority

As a general principle, do you believe Alaska residents should or should not have priority over nonresidents for hunting opportunities?



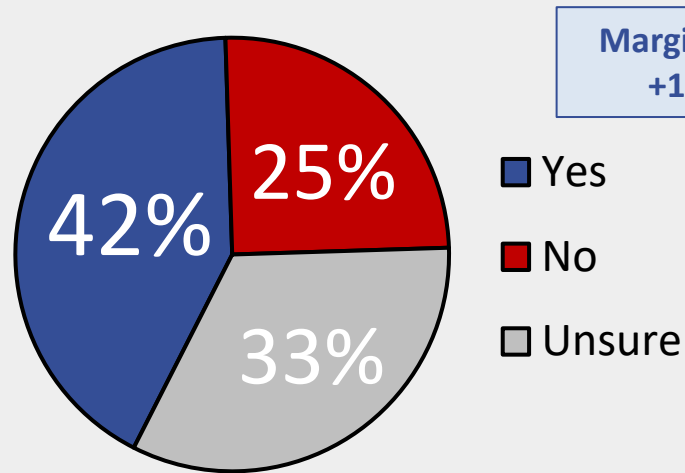
Resident hunting priority is a near-universal view, with strong intensity. Agreement holds across key demographic subgroups, with minimal disagreement.

Location	Strongly should	Total should	Total should not	Net
Anchorage	77%	92%	5%	+87%
Southcentral	83%	96%	4%	+92%
Interior	97%	100%	0%	+100%
Southeast	84%	98%	2%	+96%
Rural	74%	94%	6%	+88%
Gender				
Male	80%	95%	5%	+90%
Female	84%	96%	3%	+93%

Party	Strongly should	Total should	Total should not	Net
Democrat	80%	89%	9%	+80%
Republican	85%	98%	2%	+96%
Non-Partisan	91%	99%	1%	+98%
Undeclared	78%	94%	5%	+89%
Hunting participation				
Hunting household	88%	97%	1%	+96%
Draw permit applicant	90%	97%	1%	+96%
Harvest ticket holder	84%	98%	1%	+97%
Receive wild game	85%	97%	2%	+95%
Non-hunting household	68%	89%	9%	+80%

Plurality Say Residents Get a Fair Share, but Many Are Unsure

Do you believe resident hunters currently receive a fair share of Alaska's hunting opportunities compared to nonresident hunters?



There is no consensus on whether resident hunters receive a fair share of hunting opportunities. The largest share say yes, but a considerable share are unsure. Among those with more direct hunting connection, opinions are more divided, with higher “no” levels than average.

Location	Yes	No	Unsure	Net Yes
Anchorage	37%	25%	38%	+12%
Southcentral	45%	28%	27%	+17%
Interior	50%	22%	28%	+28%
Southeast	44%	21%	35%	+23%
Rural	47%	24%	29%	+23%
Gender	Yes	No	Unsure	Net Yes
Male	52%	25%	23%	+27%
Female	33%	25%	42%	+8%

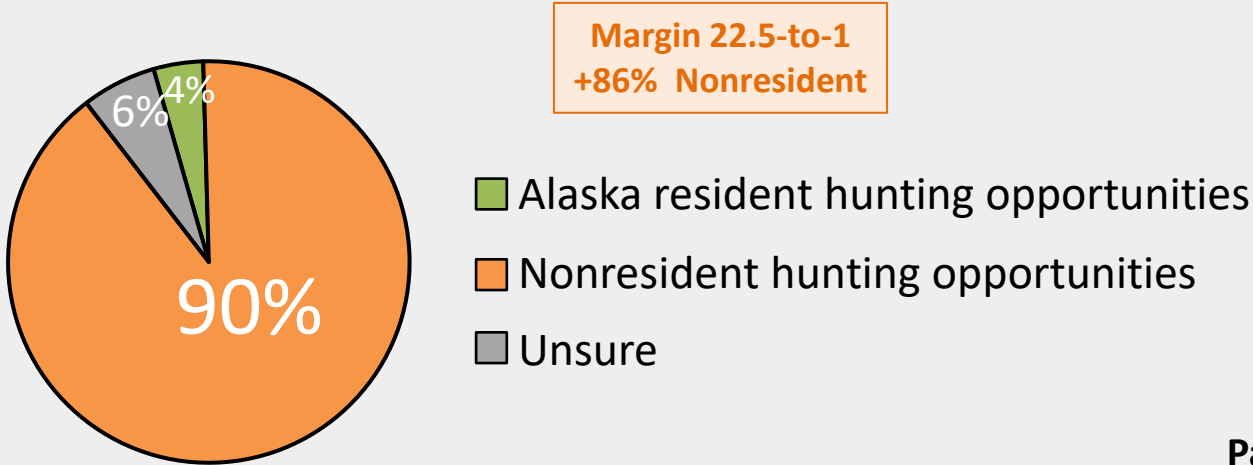
Party	Yes	No	Unsure	Net Yes
Democrat	40%	23%	37%	+17%
Republican	50%	28%	22%	+22%
Non-Partisan	42%	25%	33%	+17%
Undeclared	40%	23%	37%	+17%

Familiarity with AK hunting issues	Yes	No	Unsure	Net Yes
Very familiar	54%	35%	11%	+19%
Somewhat familiar	39%	29%	32%	+10%
Not too familiar	46%	9%	45%	+37%
Not familiar at all	37%	16%	47%	+21%

Hunting participation	Yes	No	Unsure	Net Yes
Hunting household	45%	28%	27%	+17%
Draw permit applicant	40%	39%	21%	+1%
Harvest ticket holder	47%	35%	18%	+12%
Receive wild game	43%	27%	31%	+16%
Non-hunting household	36%	18%	46%	+18%

Overwhelming Preference to Reduce Nonresident Opportunities First

If harvest limits for certain wild game need to be reduced, which should be reduced first?



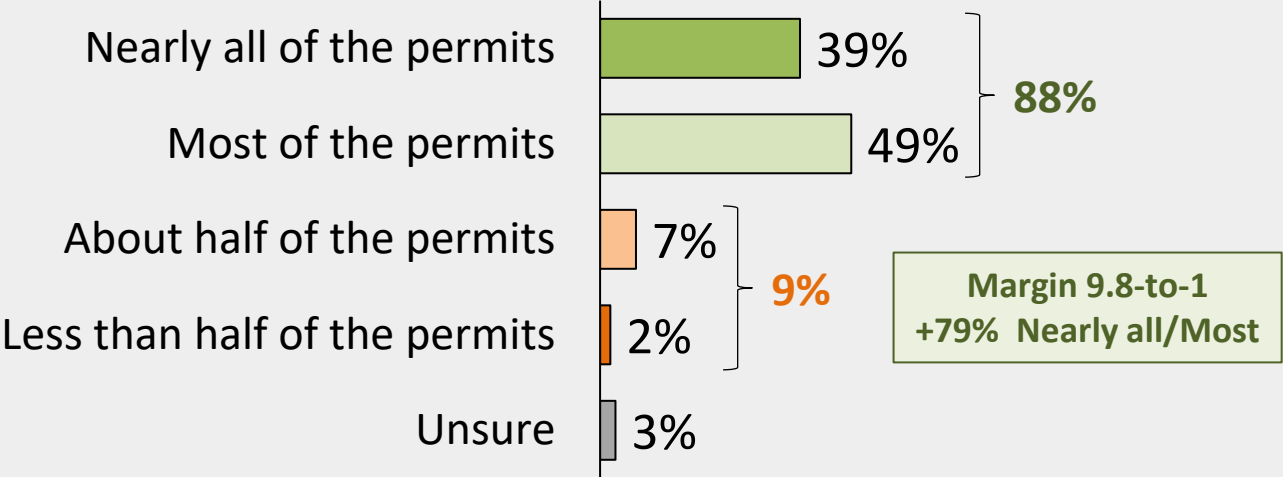
If harvest limits need to be reduced, nine out of ten Alaskans (90%) think reductions should come from nonresident hunting opportunities first. This view is consistent across key demographic subgroups.

Location	Nonresident opportunities	Resident opportunities
Anchorage	87%	6%
Southcentral	86%	7%
Interior	98%	1%
Southeast	97%	2%
Rural	95%	0%
Gender		
Male	89%	5%
Female	91%	3%

Party	Nonresident opportunities	Resident opportunities
Democrat	87%	9%
Republican	92%	2%
Non-Partisan	95%	4%
Undeclared	88%	4%
Hunting participation		
Hunting household	94%	2%
Draw permit applicant	92%	5%
Harvest ticket holder	94%	1%
Receive wild game	95%	2%
Non-hunting household	81%	8%

Strong Consensus for Residents Receiving Nearly All or Most Permits

When hunting opportunity is limited and permits are issued through a random lottery drawing, what should the allocation of permits be between Alaska residents and nonresidents? Should Alaska residents receive:



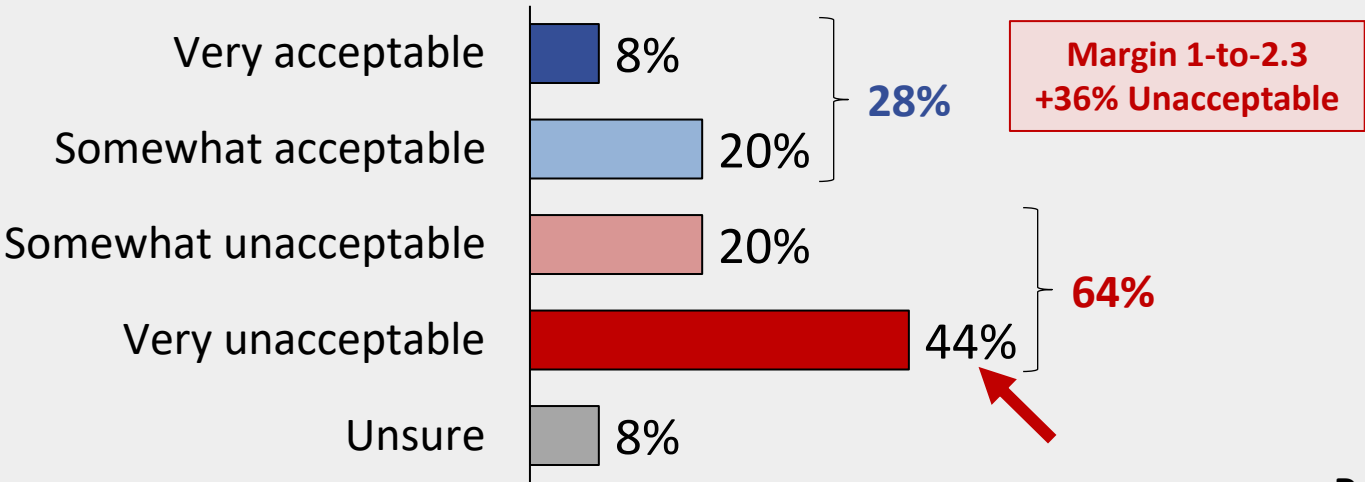
In limited hunts using a random drawing, Alaskans favor allocating permits heavily toward residents, with little support for allocating half or fewer to residents.

Location	Nearly all/ Most	Nearly all	Most	Half or less
Anchorage	85%	34%	51%	11%
Southcentral	90%	38%	52%	10%
Interior	94%	42%	52%	6%
Southeast	84%	43%	41%	9%
Rural	90%	50%	40%	7%
Gender				
Male	89%	41%	48%	8%
Female	87%	37%	50%	10%

Party	Nearly all/ Most	Nearly all	Most	Half or less
Democrat	87%	27%	60%	10%
Republican	85%	33%	52%	14%
Non-Partisan	93%	45%	48%	2%
Undeclared	88%	43%	45%	10%
Hunting participation				
Hunting household	90%	41%	49%	7%
Draw permit applicant	94%	44%	50%	3%
Harvest ticket holder	90%	40%	50%	7%
Receive wild game	89%	43%	46%	9%
Non-hunting household	84%	34%	50%	13%

Strong Majority Say Nonresidents Avoiding Draw System Unacceptable

For most Kodiak brown bear hunts, Alaska residents must be selected in a random lottery drawing to hunt. In those same hunts, nonresidents who hire a guide don't have to go through a drawing to hunt. Overall, do you think this system is acceptable or unacceptable?



By a wide margin, Alaskans say it is unacceptable that nonresidents can avoid the draw system in some hunts, and intensity is high with a plurality calling it “very unacceptable.”

Location	Total acceptable	Total unacceptable	Very unacceptable
Anchorage	30%	63%	37%
Southcentral	31%	63%	51%
Interior	22%	70%	49%
Southeast	22%	73%	51%
Rural	40%	46%	36%
Gender			
Male	34%	57%	40%
Female	24%	70%	47%

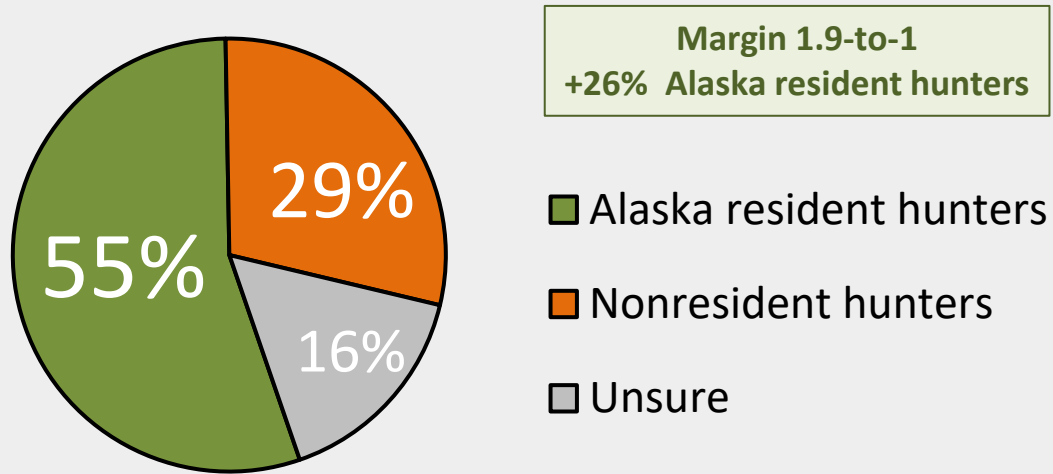
Party	Total acceptable	Total unacceptable	Very unacceptable
Democrat	27%	72%	43%
Republican	30%	65%	47%
Non-Partisan	31%	62%	40%
Undeclared	29%	61%	42%
Hunting participation			
Hunting household	28%	64%	46%
Draw permit applicant	26%	63%	49%
Harvest ticket holder	26%	65%	50%
Receive wild game	29%	63%	44%
Non-hunting household	30%	62%	39%

Economic Impacts & Fee Policy

Alaska Opinion Survey Results

Majority Recognize Resident Hunters' Greater Economic Impact

Thinking about resident and nonresident hunters and their hunting related spending, including spending on things like licenses, guides, lodging, boats, ATVs, trailers and hunting gear, which do you think has a greater overall impact on Alaska's economy? Would you say...



A majority (55%) believe resident hunters have the greater overall economic impact in Alaska, while fewer than a third (29%) point to nonresident hunters and some remain unsure.

Location	Resident hunters	Nonresident hunters	Net resident hunters
Anchorage	50%	31%	+19%
Southcentral	61%	29%	+32%
Interior	66%	20%	+46%
Southeast	46%	37%	+9%
Rural	52%	20%	+32%
Gender			
Male	58%	30%	+28%
Female	53%	28%	+25%

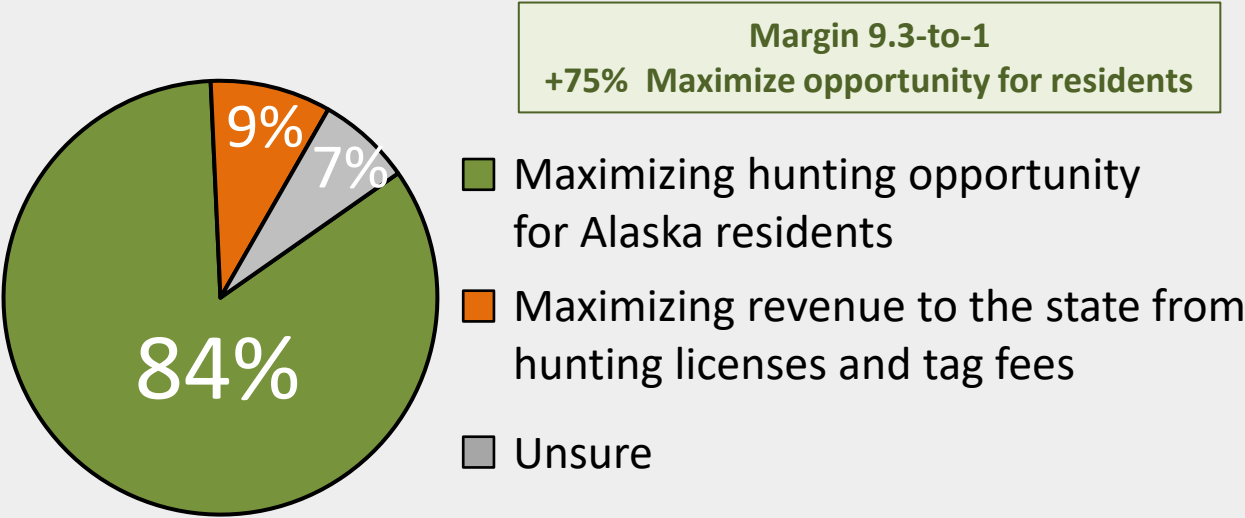
Party	Resident hunters	Nonresident hunters	Net resident hunters
Democrat	59%	21%	+38%
Republican	52%	37%	+15%
Non-Partisan	47%	40%	+7%
Undeclared	59%	22%	+37%

Familiarity with AK hunting issues

	Resident hunters	Nonresident hunters	Net resident hunters
Very familiar	54%	30%	+24%
Somewhat familiar	57%	29%	+28%
Not too familiar	51%	24%	+27%
Not familiar at all	54%	33%	+21%

Clear Preference for Resident Opportunity Over License Revenue

When hunting opportunity is limited and the Board of Game has to make allocation decisions, which should be the higher priority?



Alaskans overwhelmingly believe maximizing hunting opportunity for residents should be a higher priority than maximizing revenue to the state from hunting licenses and tag fees.

Location	Maximize opportunity	Maximize revenue	Net maximize opportunity
Anchorage	76%	14%	+62%
Southcentral	85%	9%	+76%
Interior	97%	1%	+96%
Southeast	86%	10%	+76%
Rural	93%	0%	+93%
Gender			
Male	86%	8%	+78%
Female	82%	11%	+71%

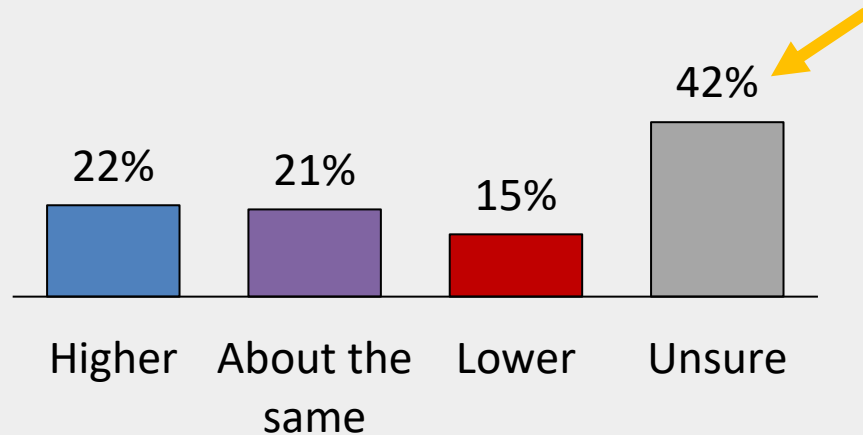
Party	Maximize opportunity	Maximize revenue	Net maximize opportunity
Democrat	82%	15%	+67%
Republican	84%	8%	+76%
Non-Partisan	86%	9%	+77%
Undeclared	83%	10%	+73%

Familiarity with AK hunting issues			
Very familiar	89%	6%	+83%
Somewhat familiar	84%	9%	+75%
Not too familiar	80%	13%	+67%
Not familiar at all	84%	13%	+71%

Importance of hunting and wild game to HH			
Important	87%	6%	+81%
Not important	78%	13%	+65%
Don't hunt/use game	75%	19%	+56%

Most Are Unsure How Alaska's Nonresident Tag Fees Compare

Compared to other western states, do you think the costs of Alaska's nonresident tag fees for big game hunts are generally higher, lower, or about the same?



Many Alaskans are unsure how Alaska's nonresident big game tag fees compare to other western states, and among those who offer an opinion, there is no consensus.

Location	Higher	About the same	Lower	Unsure
Anchorage	23%	15%	12%	50%
Southcentral	30%	26%	16%	28%
Interior	18%	28%	12%	42%
Southeast	6%	23%	36%	35%
Rural	23%	13%	3%	61%
Gender				
Male	23%	21%	22%	34%
Female	22%	20%	9%	49%

Party	Higher	About the same	Lower	Unsure
Democrat	19%	31%	4%	46%
Republican	27%	27%	16%	30%
Non-Partisan	19%	17%	14%	50%
Undeclared	21%	16%	18%	45%

Familiarity with AK hunting issues

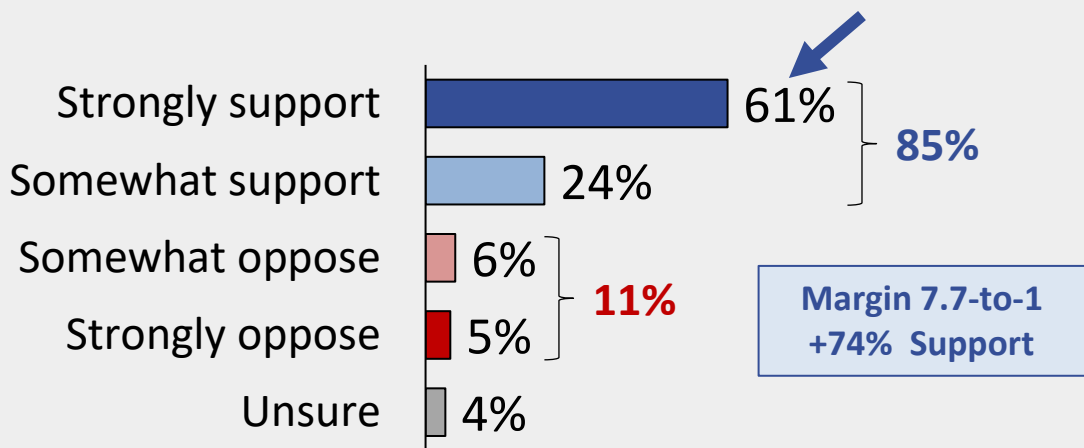
Very familiar	18%	27%	29%	26%
Somewhat familiar	26%	18%	12%	44%
Not too familiar	15%	20%	8%	57%
Not familiar at all	19%	21%	22%	38%

Hunting participation

Hunting household	23%	22%	16%	39%
Draw permit applicant	21%	24%	22%	33%
Harvest ticket holder	19%	22%	23%	36%
Receive wild game	18%	24%	15%	43%
Non-hunting household	20%	18%	14%	48%

Strong Support for Higher Nonresident Big Game Tag Fees

So everyone has the same information, compared to other western states, Alaska's nonresident tags for big game are significantly lower in most cases. For example, Alaska charges \$850 for a nonresident sheep tag. Colorado, Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming charge around \$2,400 for a nonresident sheep tag. Would you support or oppose Alaska setting nonresident big game tag fees to be more in line with other western states, even if that means significant increases in what nonresidents pay?



After being given a comparison to other western states, Alaskans strongly support setting Alaska's nonresident big game tag fees more in line with those states, even if that means significant increases in what nonresidents pay.

Location	Strongly support	Total support	Total oppose	Net support
Anchorage	61%	86%	12%	+74%
Southcentral	56%	80%	12%	+68%
Interior	63%	90%	9%	+81%
Southeast	68%	88%	8%	+80%
Rural	57%	78%	14%	+64%
Gender				
Male	60%	85%	12%	+73%
Female	61%	84%	11%	+73%

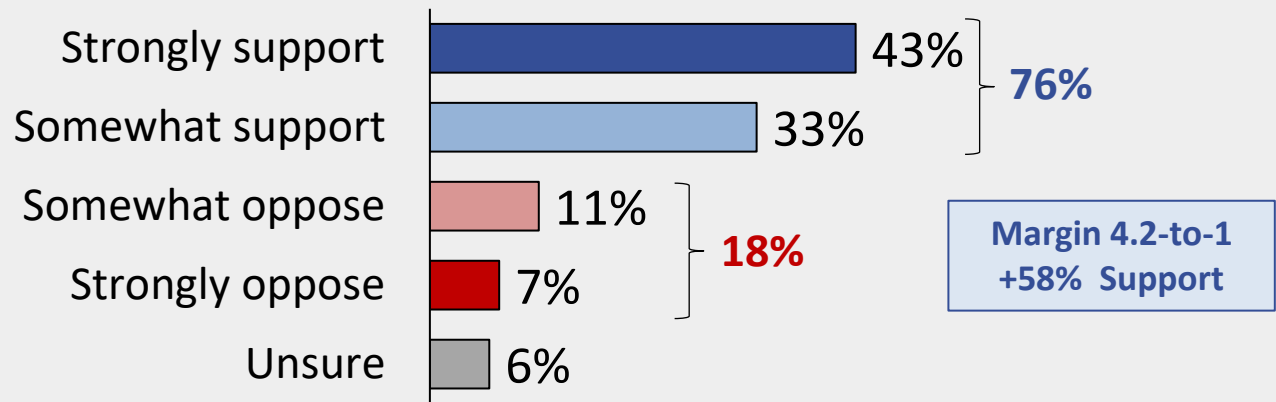
Party	Strongly support	Total support	Total oppose	Net support
Democrat	52%	87%	10%	+77%
Republican	57%	83%	12%	+71%
Non-Partisan	75%	91%	5%	+86%
Undeclared	62%	85%	11%	+74%

Hunting participation	Strongly support	Total support	Total oppose	Net support
Hunting household	63%	87%	9%	+78%
Draw permit applicant	70%	90%	7%	+83%
Harvest ticket holder	63%	88%	9%	+79%
Receive wild game	64%	87%	10%	+77%
Non-hunting household	55%	79%	15%	+64%

Baseline opinions on tag fee comparison	Strongly support	Total support	Total oppose	Net support
AK fees higher	58%	77%	17%	+60%
About the same	57%	87%	11%	+76%
AK fees lower	64%	90%	10%	+80%
Unsure	63%	87%	9%	+78%

Strong Support for Increasing Nonresident Fees to Offset Greater Priority for Residents

If Alaska gave residents stronger priority in some limited hunts, that could mean fewer nonresident hunters and less revenue to the Department of Fish and Game from nonresident license and tag fees. In this scenario, do you support or oppose increasing nonresident license and tag fees to help maintain a similar level of revenue from nonresident hunters?



In a scenario where stronger resident hunting priority could reduce nonresident hunting revenue, three-quarters of Alaskans (76%) would support increasing nonresident license and tag fees to maintain a similar level of revenue.

	Total support	Total oppose	Net
Location			
Anchorage	78%	15%	+63%
Southcentral	70%	25%	+45%
Interior	73%	25%	+48%
Southeast	84%	7%	+77%
Rural	66%	24%	+42%
Gender			
Male	74%	21%	+53%
Female	77%	16%	+61%

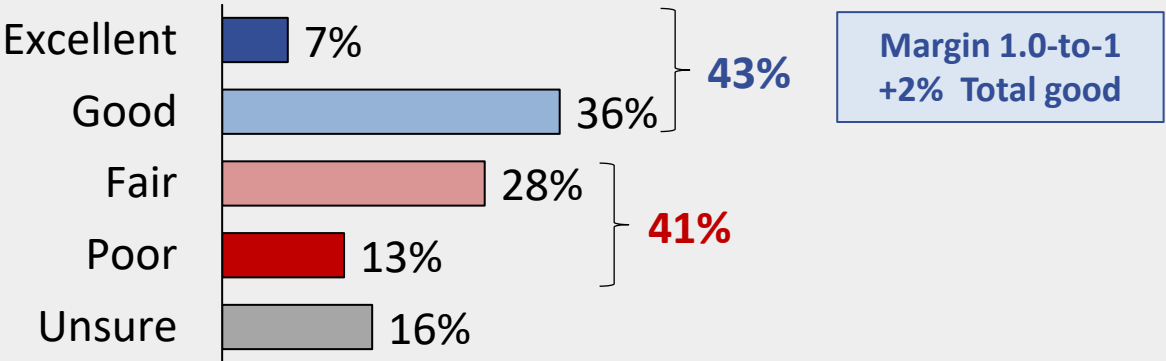
Party	Total support	Total oppose	Net
Democrat	81%	10%	+71%
Republican	71%	22%	+49%
Non-Partisan	80%	15%	+65%
Undeclared	75%	20%	+55%
Hunting participation			
Hunting household	78%	19%	+59%
Draw permit applicant	80%	15%	+65%
Harvest ticket holder	78%	19%	+59%
Receive wild game	77%	19%	+58%
Non-hunting household	71%	17%	+54%

Alaska Board of Game Performance & Governance

Alaska Opinion Survey Results

Alaskans Give the Board of Game Mixed Ratings

The Alaska Board of Game sets hunting regulations, such as seasons and bag limits, and makes all allocation decisions. Overall, how would you rate the job they are doing at managing Alaska's wildlife for residents?



Ratings of the Board of Game's job performance are mixed overall. Views are more negative among those with direct interaction with the system.

Location	Excellent/ Good	Fair/ Poor	Net
Anchorage	46%	36%	+10%
Southcentral	41%	45%	-4%
Interior	38%	50%	-12%
Southeast	41%	45%	-4%
Rural	41%	39%	+2%
Gender			
Male	44%	47%	-3%
Female	41%	36%	+5%

Party	Excellent/ Good	Fair/ Poor	Net
Democrat	42%	40%	+2%
Republican	41%	46%	-5%
Non-Partisan	39%	43%	-4%
Undeclared	45%	40%	+5%

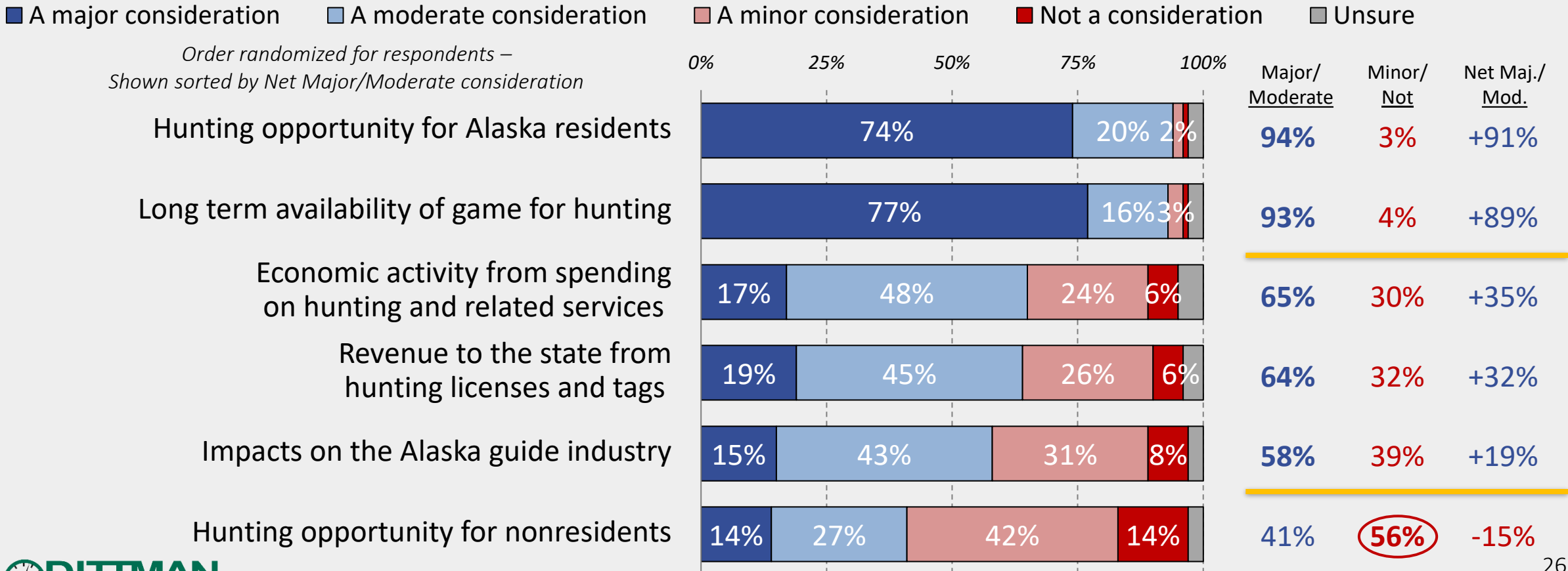
Familiarity with AK hunting issues	Excellent/ Good	Fair/ Poor	Net
Very familiar	43%	51%	-8%
Somewhat familiar	46%	47%	-1%
Not too familiar	34%	28%	+6%
Not familiar at all	43%	25%	+18%

Hunting participation	Excellent/ Good	Fair/ Poor	Net
Hunting household	43%	49%	-6%
Draw permit applicant	41%	54%	-13%
Harvest ticket holder	43%	52%	-9%
Receive wild game	40%	46%	-6%
Non-hunting household	41%	24%	+17%

Resident Opportunity and Long-Term Game Availability Lead Considerations by a Wide Margin

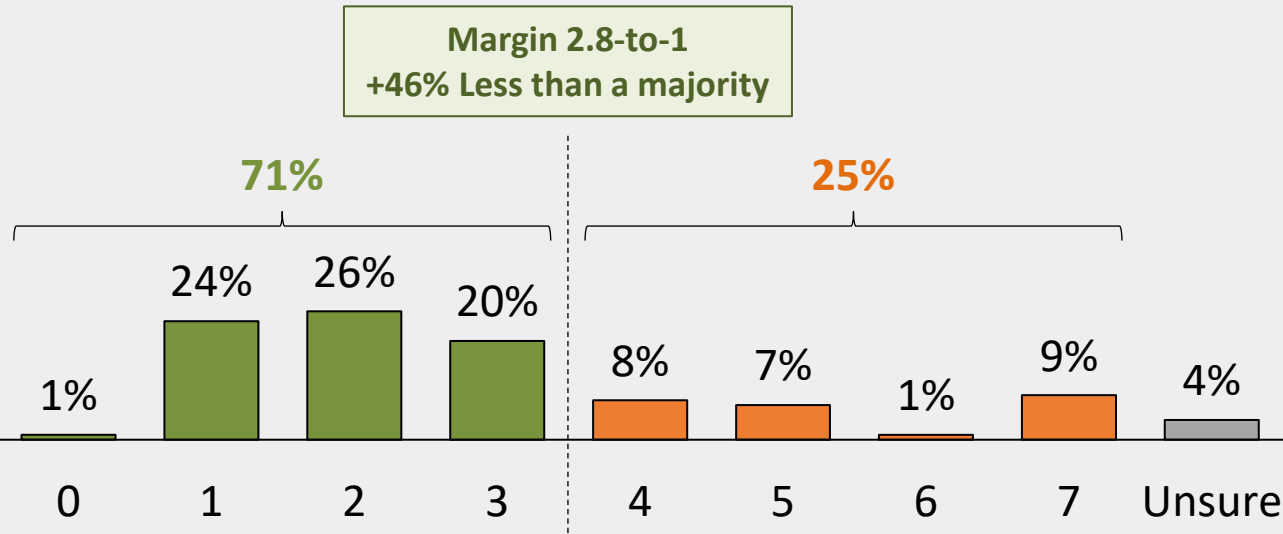
When the Alaska Board of Game makes decisions about hunting regulations, how much should it consider each of the following?

When asked what the Board of Game should consider in regulation decisions, resident opportunity and long-term game availability stand out as major considerations by a wide margin. Economic activity, license and tag revenue, and guide industry impacts fall into a second tier, while nonresident opportunity is the lowest priority and is more often described as a minor or non-consideration.



Large Majority Would Set Guide Representation Below Half of the Board

The Alaska Board of Game has seven members. State law says the Board should reflect a diversity of interests and points of view. Out of the seven Board members, what do you think is the maximum number who should hold a guide license or earn income from guiding or outfitting for big game hunts?



Location	0 to 3	4 to 7
Anchorage	67%	32%
Southcentral	70%	24%
Interior	76%	21%
Southeast	82%	11%
Rural	69%	23%
Gender		
Male	74%	21%
Female	66%	29%

A large majority (71%) favor limiting the number of Board of Game members who earn income from guiding to no more than 3.

Party	0 to 3	4 to 7
Democrat	72%	25%
Republican	69%	26%
Non-Partisan	86%	12%
Undeclared	69%	25%
Hunting participation		
Hunting household	73%	23%
Draw permit applicant	77%	18%
Harvest ticket holder	75%	19%
Receive wild game	77%	20%
Non-hunting household	67%	29%